

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1648

Introduced by Assembly Member Pavley

(Principal coauthors: Senators Escutia and Soto)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dymally, Goldberg, Hancock,
Oropeza, and Wolk)**

(Coauthors: Senators Figueroa and Kuehl)

February 22, 2005

An act to add Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 104307) to Part 1 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1648, as introduced, Pavley. Reflex sympathetic dystrophy.

Under existing law the State Department of Health Services conducts a program for the control of high blood pressure and maintains a program for the prevention of blindness.

This bill would require the department to establish and implement the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Education and Research Program.

This bill would establish the continuously appropriated Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Fund for the purposes of this bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
- 2 Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Education and Research Program
- 3 Act.
- 4 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) Reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), also known as complex regional pain, is a debilitating and progressively chronic condition characterized by severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating, tissue swelling, and extreme sensitivity to touch.

(b) More specifically, RSD is thought to be a nerve disorder that generally occurs at the site of a minor or major trauma injury, but may also occur without an apparent injury to the afflicted person.

(c) While the causes of RSD are unknown, it is thought to be the result of damaged nerves of the sympathetic nervous system.

(d) The disorder is unique in that it simultaneously affects the nerves, skin, muscles, blood vessels, and bones, and if untreated, can result in permanent deformity and chronic pain.

(e) RSD is often misdiagnosed because this condition is either unknown or is poorly understood; the prognosis for patients suffering from RSD is generally much better when the condition is identified and treated as early as possible, ideally within three months of identifying the first symptoms.

(f) If treatment is delayed, the disorder can quickly spread to the entire limb, and changes in bone and muscle may become irreversible, resulting in limited mobility, atrophy of the muscles, and eventual permanent disability of patients.

(g) Since a delay in diagnosis or treatment for this debilitating condition can result in severe physical and physiological problems, and early recognition and prompt treatment of RSD provides the greatest opportunity for recovery, it is in the best interest of the public to establish a program to educate both individuals and medical professionals regarding this debilitating condition and to promote research to accurately identify, diagnose, and treat RSD.

SEC. 3. Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 104307) is added to Part 1 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

CHAPTER 5.5. REFLEX SYMPATHETIC DYSTROPHY EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH

104307. (a) The department shall establish a Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Education and Research Program.

1 (b) For purposes of this chapter, “RSD” means reflex
2 sympathetic dystrophy. Reflex sympathetic dystrophy is a
3 debilitating and progressively chronic condition characterized by
4 severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin,
5 excessive sweating, tissue sweating, tissue swelling, and extreme
6 sensitivity to touch.

7 (c) The purpose of the program established under this chapter
8 shall be to promote public awareness of the causes of RSD, the
9 value of early detection and diagnosis and possible treatments,
10 and to promote research, through public and private resources, to
11 accurately identify, diagnose, and treat reflex sympathetic
12 dystrophy.

13 104308. In implementing the program established under this
14 chapter, the department shall do all of the following:

15 (a) Establish a public education and outreach campaign,
16 through written materials, brochures, and the department’s Web
17 site, to promote RSD education, that will enable individuals to
18 make informed decisions about their health, including, but not
19 limited to, the following elements:

- 20 (1) The cause and nature of RSD.
- 21 (2) The risk factors that contribute to the manifestation of
22 RSD.
- 23 (3) Available treatment options, including risks and benefits of
24 those options.
- 25 (4) Environmental safety and injury prevention.
- 26 (5) Rest and use of appropriate body mechanics.
- 27 (6) The availability of RSD diagnostic, treatment, and
28 outreach services in the community.
- 29 (7) Any other factors or elements that might mitigate the
30 effects of RSD.

31 (b) Develop educational materials and brochures and make
32 them available to consumers.

33 (c) Coordinate, promote, and offer professional education
34 programs, through institutions of higher education, for health
35 care providers and health-related community-based
36 organizations, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 37 (1) Research findings.
- 38 (2) The cause and nature of RSD.
- 39 (3) RSD risk factors, including, but not limited to, lifestyle,
40 heredity, and drug interactions.

1 (4) The diagnostic procedures and appropriate indications for
2 their use.

3 (5) Medical and surgical treatment options, including
4 experimental and established drug therapies, and the risks and
5 benefits of each option.

6 (6) Environmental safety and injury prevention.

7 (7) The availability of RSD diagnosis and treatment and
8 support services in the community.

9 (d) Promote research, through both private and public funding
10 sources, to accurately identify, diagnose, and treat RSD.

11 104309. (a) The Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Fund is
12 hereby established in the State Treasury. Notwithstanding
13 Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the fund
14 are hereby continuously appropriated to the department, without
15 regard to fiscal years, for the purpose of funding this chapter.

16 (b) The department may seek and accept grants, awards, and
17 other funds not derived from the General Fund for the
18 implementation of this chapter, and shall deposit any moneys
19 received pursuant to this section into the fund for expenditure for
20 the purposes of this chapter.

21 104309.5. This chapter shall be implemented only to the extent
22 funds from federal or private sources are made available for this
23 purpose.